rivulet on the slope of South Basin, Mt. Ktaadn, September, 1898. Altitude about 4,500 feet.

Cardamine bellidifolia L. Abundant on sandy shores of South Basin Pond, Mt. Ktaadn, September, 1898. Altitude about 2,500 feet.

Podostemon ceratophyllum Michx. On rocks in swift water, Chemo Stream, Bradley, November, 1898. This plant was excluded from the Maine Flora, by Mr. Fernald, as no locality was known.

Vaccinium caespitosum Michx. Slope of South Basin, Mt. Ktaadn, September, 1898.

Cynoglossum Virginicum L. Border of woods, Orono, June, 1898. This plant is reported in the Portland Catalogue as questionable.

Senecio Balsamitae Muhl. (*S. aureus* var. *Balsamitae* Torr. & Gray). Border of Three Ponds, Mt. Ktaadn. Altitude about 2,000 feet. A few specimens in bloom in September, 1898.

University of Maine, Orono.

ON THE EDIBILITY OF CLITOCYBE ILLUDENS.

Mr. Frank J. Wills, of Winchester, Mass., writes to the Boston Mycological Club as follows: —

"I have had an experience with *Clitocybe illudens* which, it strikes me, should have some official record. You will find it classed among the non-edible varieties,[1] but last year my family found it very good eating. I tried a few specimens myself, and the next day cooked the remainder of the clump, which gave us enough to fill the chafing-dish. I parboiled them first in salted water, and rinsed them well, then stewed them with cream, butter and seasoning.

"Saturday last I brought a clump to the exhibition, where they were identified, so that there could be no possible mistake in the matter. I also sent a specimen to Mr. Peck, who declared it to be rightly named, and wrote me the following note, which may be valuable for reference;

Dear Sir, — The specimen you send reached me this morning. It is certainly *Clitocybe illudens* Schw., as the members of the Mycological Club say.

Boiling it a few minutes in salt water probably saved you from an attack of nausea and vomiting. Two or three of my correspondents have been led by its attractive appearance to try it incautiously, but with unpleasant results, which prove to my satisfaction that it should not be classed among the wholesome species.

[1] See Rhodora 1: 43.

Even harmful species may be treated with salt water and vinegar so that they may be made harmless, but this does not, to my mind, render them worthy of being classed with those that are edible without such treatment.

Very truly yours,

CHAS. H. PECK.

"We have now before us the question as to what constitutes edibility in a mushroom. As a natural food product, the mushroom must take its place with other vegetable growths, and it occurs to me that, if the subject were investigated, it would be found that many familiar foods are rendered nutritious by certain processes of cooking, without which they would be harmful."

[The question of the edibility of certain noxious fungi has been raised before, for instance in regard to acrid species of Lactarius and Russula. Although experience has shown that proper treatment robs them of their power to do harm, and thus renders their substance a convenient vehicle for savory seasoning, prudence will always require, as Mr. Peck asserts in his letter to Mr. Wills, that such species, when there is no room for full notes upon them, be left in the non-edible list, and stigmatized as noxious. — ED.]

SOME UNDESCRIBED AND LITTLE-KNOWN VARIETIES OF ASTER AND SOLIDAGO.

M. L. FERNALD.

IN the study of the northeastern asters and goldenrods my attention has been called from time to time to some strongly marked varieties of well-known species which so maintain their characteristics that they seem worthy of varietal names. Careful study in the field leads me to consider all the forms here described extreme variations from more common specific types rather than distinct species. The forms of *Aster multiflorus*, *A. vimineus*, *A. puniceus* and *A. tardiflorus*, though habitally unique in their extremes, pass very clearly into the typical forms of those species. The last plant is one of several remarkably pubescent forms, as *A. longifolius*, Lam., var. *villicaulis*, Gray and *A. cordifolius*, L., var. *Furbishiae*, Fernald (Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist. ii. 129), which occur on the banks of the St. John and other rivers of northern New England. The *Solidago*, though remarkably large, presents no apparent floral characters to separate it from the exceedingly variable *S. Virgaurea*.

Aster multiflorus, Ait., var. **exiguus**. A slender plant differing from the species in its flexuous branches terminated by solitary or rarely slightly clustered heads. — *A. ciliatus*, Muhl. in Willd. Sp. iii.